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English
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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session of 2001

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Guillermo E. **Kendall** (Argentina)

VI. Information technology

A. Policy issues regarding the translation of non-parliamentary and public information material into all official languages

Introduction and overview

1. At its 439th meeting, on 28 August 2001, the Committee on Conferences heard an oral presentation by a representative of the Department of Public Information on the multilingual development, maintenance and enrichment of the United Nations web site, and a report by the Secretary-General on the subject (A/AC.198/2001/8) was made available to the members of the Committee.

2. A number of questions were raised by members of the Committee. The representative of the Department of Public Information said that, with regard to the building of modular parity on the web site among the six official languages, the Department was following the policy set out in draft resolution B adopted by the Committee on Information at its twenty-third session and submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session (see A/56/21, chap. V). The draft resolution stressed the impact on the multilingual nature of the United Nations of integrating the optical disk system with the United Nations web site. It also requested the Working Group on Internet Matters to include in the Internet Publishing Guidelines specific recommendations towards the goal of making all documentation on the web sites available in all six official languages. As noted by the Secretary-General in paragraph 21 of his report, the achievement of full parity among the official languages would require additional resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee noted the growing disparities that existed on the United Nations web site between English and the other official languages.

4. The Committee encouraged the Secretary-General to put forward new proposals to achieve full modular parity of the six official languages and requested that it be informed of steps envisaged to that end.

5. The Committee requested the Secretariat to include Nairobi and Vienna along with New York and Geneva on the web site entitled "About the United Nations".